



**SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 6, 2012  
6 P.M.**

<b>Special Meeting</b>	The Special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Monday, August 6, 2012 at 6 p.m.
<b>Present</b>	Deputy Mayor Robert Santangelo, Council Members Thomas J. Serra, Ronald P. Klattenberg, Mary A. Bartolotta, Hope Kasper, Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Philip J. Pessina, Joseph E. Bibisi, Linda Salafia, and Todd G. Berch; Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan, Sergeant-at-arms Acting Chief William McKenna, and Common Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood.
<b>Absent</b>	Mayor Daniel T. Drew, Council Member Gerald E. Daley and Deborah Kleckowski, and Corporation Counsel Daniel Ryan.
<b>Also Present</b>	Public Works Director Bill Russo, Chief Building Official John Parker, Finance Director Carl Erlacher, Director of IT William Oliver, Personnel Director Debra Milardo, Planning, Conservation, and Development Director William Warner, City and Town Clerk Sandra Driska, Water and Sewer Director Guy Russo, Parking Director Geen Thazhampallath, Acting City Attorney Timothy Lynch, Acting Chief of Police William McKenna, Park Supervisor John Milardo and Recreation Supervisor Deb Stanley, Russell Library Arthur Meyers, Youth Services Director Justin Carbonella, Director of Health Dr. Joseph Havlicek, Tax Assessor Damon Braasch, Fire Chief Gary Ouellette, Director of Communications Wayne Bartolotta, Director of Human Relations Faith Jackson, Arts Coordinator Stephan Allison, Joseph Samolis Administrative Aide to the Mayor and 4 members of the public.
<b>Meeting Called to Order</b>	The Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and leads the public in the pledge of Allegiance.
<b>Call of Meeting Read</b>	The Call of the meeting is read and accepted. The Deputy Mayor declares this call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.
<b>Noted for the Record</b>	Councilwoman Salafia takes her seat at 6:03 p.m.
<b>Workshop Opens</b>	<p>The Chair opens Questions to Directors workshop at 6:03 p.m.</p> <p>Councilman Serra asks for Guy Russo, Director of Water and Sewer, to explain the \$37 million for the Matabassett District.</p>
<b>Noted for the Record</b>	<p>Councilman Faulkner takes his seat at 6:04 p.m.</p> <p>Mr. Russo comes forward and states the City has been under a compliance order and the DEEP has not enforced it to let us complete the regionalization with Matabassett. The City has two choices: to regionalize or we could have gone on our own at the current or new location and those choices are more expensive than regionalization with Matabassett. It is a new pumps station and forced main pipe. The price has risen significantly over the early estimates and the alignment of the pipe. That is the overview of the \$37 million bond issue.</p> <p>Councilman Serra asks what it would cost on our own. Mr. Russo responds without an exact design, he can only give some information; for the town of Berlin, they are doing it on their own and it was over \$100 million. Mr. Russo continues that this plan has been on the books for over two decades.</p> <p>Councilman Klattenberg states we discussed this project at Finance and Government Operations and the question that came up is whether the demolition is part of the \$37 million and in the language of the ordinance it does include the demolition and reuse of the site. The question is whether Bond Counsel approved the ordinance and the language of the referendum has the approved the words and should the demo be noted on the question. Mr. Russo responds he is going to ask Mike Andreana, Bond Counsel to come to the forward. Attorney Andreana comes forward. Councilman Klattenberg thanks him for being here and the demolition is part of the project and a fundamental expenditure to move this project forward, yet it is not noted in the language for the question. Attorney Andreana states that is true, but it is part of the project description and they are comfortable with the language and description covering the project. Councilman Klattenberg states you are comfortable with that fact. Attorney Andreana responds yes. Councilman Klattenberg states you provide the information and language of</p>

the ordinance. Attorney Andreana responds they worked with Mr. Russo on the project description and this is unique because it covers the ability for the City to obtain grants and Clean Water Energy funds. Councilman Klattenberg asks how much of the bond authorization will be bonded and what will be covered by the State. Mr. Russo responds the project is configured and he can get final audit by DEEP that 20% will be covered by grant and the other is 20 years financing at 2% funding. We get to an intersection and length of pipe needs to be done, we opt to do it because it is less expensive to do it then than at a later date. Councilman Klattenberg states generally, 80% will be needed. Mr. Russo responds yes; if all is expended it would be the City's burden for repayment at 20 years at 2%.

Mr. Russo thanks the Council; this has been a long hard difficult project. We are close and he has learned long ago, they don't stop until the end zone.

Councilwoman Kasper asks for Carl Erlacher, Director of Finance. Her question is the appropriation for \$32,000 for Midnight on Main; in one place, it says \$32,000 and one says \$25,000 and what did we supply last year. Mr. Erlacher responds the \$25,000 is our contribution and the other \$7,000 is overtime for the Police Department.

Councilman Serra states he wanted to follow-up on the Water and Sewer bonding and how solid we are. Mr. Erlacher responds as Director Russo says, it would be 80% over a 20 year period. We are looking for grants to ease the burden and as far as bonding is concerned; currently it will be a large issue in the spring and it will be \$60 million in totality. We have the room to bond. Councilman Serra asks the about the retirement of bonds. Mr. Erlacher responds the rapid retirement at 10 years helps and we have rapidly retired bonds. Councilman Serra asks if improving infrastructure, does this helps the bond rating. Mr. Erlacher replies, yes, it does and if we don't do it, it could hurt.

Councilman Pessina asks Mr. Erlacher about the grants for this project; a lot of the citizens looking at the size of the bonds and in a tough economy and people out of work it is a large number to face. Can you give us a realistic opinion as to if we can get grants. Are they out there to help us or just something we are presenting to the public. Mr. Erlacher replies we have to present to the public the full picture which is the \$37 million; we are obviously not looking at that. The directional drilling and other things have increased the cost of the project and we are looking for help everywhere we can. Councilman Pessina asks to address questions to Mr. Russo. Where would you go for the grants. Mr. Russo responds two to the Department of Economic and Community Development. One for \$2.5 million to keep engineering going; they have a CRISP grant of \$8.8 million. They have completed that work and it is an extension of that project and they allowed us to do the engineering for this project. We expect to be out to bid next spring, we need to do the engineering now. We have made an additional appeal of \$6 million on the direction drilling. Those are pending. He agrees with Mr. Erlacher; there is no obligation that we will get it. We are making our best argument. Councilman Pessina asks if one of the avenues is the federal delegation to our Congresswoman or Senator. It seems to me and he is not an expert from what he was reading there were a lot of projects and it is important for Middletown. Can we reach out to them. Mr. Russo states they have not tried federal, but are working with the State. They have not chased a federal earmark. Councilman Pessina asks if he will. Mr. Russo responds if there is an expectation that we can get something. Councilman Pessina states this is an important project and the City is looking at expenditures and ways to offset. Mr. Russo states he is aware of that balance with getting the price down and doing the project. There really is no choice. We do this or do one of our own at a much higher price. Councilman Pessina states anything you can do to help out, the citizens will appreciate it. Mr. Russo responds he will.

Councilman Faulkner asks to address questions to Carl Erlacher. He asks on Midnight on Main, we do have the numbers for last year that were incurred. Mr. Erlacher responds he can send them to you. Councilman Faulkner states we have a resolution, agenda item 12-5 for a staff member in the City Clerk's office that has impact of \$24,000. Mr. Erlacher states that is not a Tax Clerk, but Town Clerk. We have talked about it at Finance with the Town Clerk, Sandra Driska. Councilman Faulkner asks if this is a change from the funding of the job from before. Mr. Erlacher states it is a new position; it was part time. They will role the funds into a new position. Mr. Erlacher states the individual was part time and will take on a full time role. Councilman Faulkner asks if an appropriation has to be done. Mr. Erlacher responds yes, next month. They will have to appropriate \$24,000.

Councilman Serra asks to address questions to the Parking Director, Geen Thazhampallath. He asks about the lightening strike on the cameras. Mr.

Thazhampallath responds that the cameras on the municipal building were not touched, only those in the parking lot. It was six cameras and they need to repair/replace them and think about putting in lightening protection. Councilman serra asks if it should be done as it is repaired. Mr. Thazhampallath responds they will be seeking an insurance claim and the rules of insurance prevent us from asking for an upgrade. Basically, the insurance process will get it started and get us to a certain point, but upgrades will cost more. Councilman Serra states they can do it while they are doing the repair, you can transfer money and then come back.

Councilman Faulkner asks Mr. Thazhampallath, we knew these cameras were outdoors, why wasn't it done. Mr. Thazhampallath states it is a great question and they will explore it. The lightening strike, it is incredible that it happened and we are looking to mitigate it from happening again. This lot was constructed two years ago. We are lucky that the cameras for this building and the parking lot are on separate networks and the current could have come into the building and new equipment here could have been done. The cameras on this building are working; all others are down.

Councilman Berch asks for Bill Russo, Director of Public Works and John Parker, Chief Building Official. They come forward to respond. Councilman Berch has questions regarding renovations at the American Legion Building and you are asking for a bid waiver for contractors for outside stucco and the second, for the roof. We don't have a bid package. Can you explain the scope, what will happen with both. Mr. Parker responds he was approached to evaluate the condition of the building at Palmer Field and it was in the Palmer Mill Building. The roof has had problems and was rehabed in the late 1980's and is a rubber membrane roof. In 2006, we put a sealer on it and last night when it rained they had water in the building and while looking at the roof they evaluated the siding and I suggested a Styrofoam adhered to the brick and 2-3 layers of stucco; you can do a color concept. The options for what we can do for the building are his recommendations for what is best for the building. Councilman Berch agrees with it. With the issue with water and in the bid package the monetary award, a lot of the things we do with the building, he has questions on the roof drains and they are not addressed. The roof pans as part of the roofing, they get changed as well. We don't know what the condition is and the roofing is taken away and any rotten plywood will be replaced; and if there is any costs, there will be an appropriation. He states the pans should be looked at so it doesn't ruin the new roof. The drain system is fine, but the covers do need work.

**Noted for the Record**

Councilwoman Bartolotta takes her seat at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Parker continues and states the bowls are in good shape just what is on top of that.

Councilman Berch asks about air conditioning system. Mr. Parker responds it is on the ground not the roof. Councilman Berch asks about the flashing and states it is in the bid package and asks if that is the price installed. Mr. Parker responds yes. The roof substrata doesn't appear to have problems. They did a good walk through and it doesn't appear it is the substrata but the membrane. Councilman Berch asks what color will it be. Mr. Parker states the color will be picked out by the VFW.

The Acting Chair asks if there are any other questions; seeing none, he asks for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion to adjourn**

Councilman Berch moves to adjourn and is seconded by Councilman Klattenberg. The vote is unanimous and the Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

**MARIE O NORWOOD**  
Common Council Clerk